

Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation

U.S. Support for NPT Article IV

UNITED STATES & COLOMBIA

Through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United States contributes to the work of many countries using nuclear materials and technology for peaceful purposes. In recent years, U.S. support has focused on achieving tangible and lasting benefits in fields that are vital to human development, including agriculture, human health, water resource management, and human resource development. Since 2000, the IAEA has approved and funded \$6,785,530, including \$370,585 in 2013, under its Technical Cooperation (TC) program for projects in Colombia.

In addition to the United States' longstanding support for the IAEA's activities to promote peaceful nuclear applications, at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the United States announced a \$100 million USD effort to expand this support over the next five years. The U.S. has pledged \$50 million towards the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI), focusing on human health, food security, water resource management, and nuclear power infrastructure development.

The U.S. views its support for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to which all NPT Parties are entitled, as a critical part of its broader effort to strengthen

the IAEA and the global nuclear nonproliferation regime. The U.S. has already designated over \$22 million for IAEA projects benefitting over 120 countries, including Colombia, for which funding was previously unavailable. The U.S. is working with partners to reach the \$100 million goal, and welcomes Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden, Australia, France, Indonesia, Brazil, Italy, the UK and Kazakhstan who have announced their own commitments to the PUI of over \$12 million.

HUMAN HEALTH

With cardiovascular disease as the leading cause of death in most Latin American countries and almost 800,000 new cases of cancer in the region each year, Colombia is currently working through a regional TC project supported by the U.S. to improve the management of cardiac diseases and cancer patients by strengthening nuclear medicine techniques in Latin America and the Caribbean region.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

Colombia is currently participating in a regional TC project supported by the U.S. to improve the operational national regulatory infrastructure for safety and control of radiation sources to ensure the protection of people and the environment against the adverse effects of ionizing radiation. The project will harmonize and streamline participating countries' national capabilities for regulatory control in compliance with international requirements and establish or develop a comprehensive national system for preparedness and response to radiological emergencies.

Human resource development is critical for Member States to implement and sustain nuclear security, so Colombia is

also participating in a regional TC project supported by the U.S. to implement the component of the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan 2010-2013 which focuses on institutional capacity building, human resource development and educational programs.

AGRICULTURE

Colombia is participating in a project, coordinated by the IAEA's Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications and supported by the U.S., to implement capacity building activities to improve food safety and quality through nuclear technology and networking. The project involves workshops, human resource training, and technology transfers, and aims to establish functional networks, raise awareness of food safety and conduct food safety gap analysis in selected countries.

HUMAN RESOURCES

To contribute to Member States' manpower development, the IAEA awards individual fellowships and organizes group training courses. Since 2000, the U.S. has hosted several training courses that included Colombian participants in fields such as isotope techniques for river basin management, groundwater hydrology, nuclear power and nuclear safety infrastructure, and quality assurance in radiotherapy. Training was also provided through the IAEA Fellowship Program to eight Colombians, four of which were sponsored by the U.S. in the fields of nuclear medicine imaging, plant breeding and genetics, radiation medicine and health, and radioanalytical techniques.

Additionally, since 2000, 13 U.S. experts have traveled to Colombia to collaborate through various IAEA Technical Cooperation projects.



Radiotherapy center.
Credit: Rodolfo Quevenco/IAEA

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Office of Multilateral Nuclear and Security Affairs, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C. Street NW, Washington, DC 20520 | www.state.gov